

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-23 are pending.

In the action mailed November 13, 2003, claims 1-7, 11-14, and 17-23 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as obvious over claims 1-7, 12-15, 17, and 19-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,450 to Dodd et al.

Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer obviating this double patenting rejection.

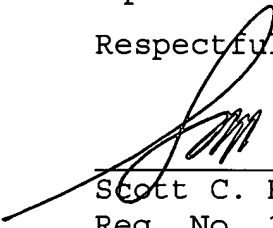
Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0052057 A1 (hereinafter "Lai"). Claims 3, 4, 13, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Lai in combination with various references.

Submitted herewith is a declaration by the inventors under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 declaring that they had worked on the subject matter recited in these claims prior to June 12, 2000. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Lai is not prior art, and that the rejections relying upon Lai cannot be maintained.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2004



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